About LEVEL news

Contents

Ships Faced Difficulties with Ice as Seaway Closed

Ice Boom Installed

Levels Near Low Point

December Precipitation

Water Levels for the Great Lakes and Montreal Harbour
... a monthly bulletin from Canadian Hydrographic Service

About the monthly Water Level bulletin

December Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term December average:

Great Lakes Basin	88%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	64%
Lake Superior	109%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	92%
Lake Ontario	71%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

Last Issue

Next Issue

LEVEL news

Volume 4, Number 1 **January 8, 1996**

Ships Faced Difficulties with Ice as Seaway Closed

Ships on the St. Lawrence River and Welland Canal had to overcome serious ice problems during the last two weeks of the navigation season.

Cold air temperatures since mid-November caused ice formation to begin in early December in parts of the lower Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. By mid-December, much of the St. Lawrence between Cornwall and Montreal was ice-covered.

In comparison, the winter of 1994-95 was very mild with little ice on the Great Lakes, and ice did not appear in the St. Lawrence River until early January.

Until December 25, when the last ship cleared the Welland Canal, ships on Lake Erie had to struggle through heavy ice fields when entering the canal locks. In the St. Lawrence River, ship traffic was restricted to daytime only and was assisted by ice breakers.

In fact, the ice problem was so serious that Seaway officials were concerned that destruction of the fragile ice cover in the Beauharnois Canal (just upstream of Montreal and serving both navigation and hydropower plants) could completely shut down the seaway.

The weather turned milder in late December, and the last ship cleared the Beauharnois Canal on December 26.

Ice Boom Installed

Installation of the Lake Erie-Niagara River ice boom was completed on December 16. The boom, located at the outlet of Lake Erie to the Niagara River, is installed each winter to strengthen the ice arch that naturally forms at this location.

This minimizes the occurrence and severity of ice jams in the Niagara River, which restrict river flow and cause damage to shoreline property.

Prior to use of the boom, heavy ice runs into the Niagara River caused

Issue Index

frequent ice jams, resulting in serious damage to shore structures, flooding, and reductions in the generation of hydro-electric power at Niagara.

Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

Levels Near Low Point

Water levels on the lower Great Lakes are expected to begin their annual seasonal rise with the start of the new year. However, no extreme high or low water level conditions are expected for the next several months. During December, Lake Superior and Lakes Michigan-Huron were very close to average levels, while Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario were about 10 cm above average.

Top of Page
Français | Contact Us | Help | Search | Canada Site
What's New | Topics | Publications | Weather | Home | About Us

part of Environment Canada's Green Lane™

Webmaster
Last Updated: 2001-04-04
Last Reviewed: 2001-04-04

Important Notices and Disclaimers
URL: http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/water/level-news/lvn96jan.html